

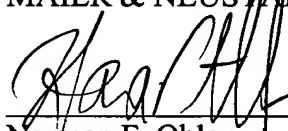
REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over EP 218881 (Matsumoto et al) in view of JP 3-229773 (JP '773), is respectfully traversed. All of the claims now contain the subject matter of Claim 9, not subject to this rejection and indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
NFO:HAP

Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779